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## MACHINE TRAWL THREATENS THE NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES

BOSTON, March 7.—New England's neighbors will have been wondering at the flurry which has stirred the up-coast press into angry protest against the use of the otter trawl. From the headlands of Lunenburg, the Nova Scotia Gloucester, to the dunes of Provincetown, fishermen are warring their heads over what they consider "the finish of the fishing-grounds."

This trouble over the otter trawl is merely a re-enactment of the fable of the goose and the golden eggs. Shall the off-shore grounds be fished by the old methods which have kept the country supplied, and, at the end of two centuries, left the banks as rich as ever; or shall they be fished by a new method at once wasteful and destructive, cheapening fish temporarily perhaps, but sure to make them dearer in the end. It is an issue of conservation. One more directly affecting the collective maw of the consumer hardly confronts this country today.

These opposed methods of fishing are represented by two types of craft. The fishing-schooners send out their crews, one man or two to a dory, to drop lines of baited hooks which lie along the sea horizon. The ends of these lines are anchored and the anchors are marked by buoys. In a few hours, these "trawls" are hauled, and the fish ferried back to the schooner. The work trains seamen to an amazing hardihood and dexterity. Only the native fish are caught. By scattering more than 30,000,000 pounds on bait on the fishing grounds annually (only about one-eighth of which actually captures fish) these deep-sea gardens are enriched exactly as the farmer treats his soil.

Devastator of the Bottom.

The other type is a small iron steamer. There is only a small fleet—hardly more than half a dozen vessels in all—but it is the nucleus of what will be thrice as many as the industry develops. These steamers drag along the sea-bottom a net shaped like a huge sack. Its rim is a heavy trawling hawser, weighted with lead to make the under part "bite" the ground, and its upper part is buoyed with cork to keep the mouth of the net open.

This sack is towed along the sea-bottom for an hour and a half before being emptied. Formerly the period was four hours, but this so bruised and scaled the fish as to make them unmarketable. The point is that this net gathers in literally everything. Once it was a two-ton boulder. Lost anchors have been grubbed up in it by the dozen. What this apparatus does to the sea-life on the bottom of the fishing grounds may be guessed. On spots where the otter trawls have dragged, the mussel beds are destroyed, the shells broken, and the bait destroyed. Nothing is left to attract fish to these banks as feeding grounds.

Quite apart from the damage to the bottom, the completeness of the haul of the otter trawl is in itself wasteful. It catches small fish, or "scrod," in great quantities. Indeed, before the days of the "steam-trawler" so few of these small seedling fish were brought in that there was no market for them. Yet it not infrequently happens that a quarter of the catch of an otter trawl consists of fish too small to be salable. They must be shovelled overboard again, dead. When it is considered that these otter trawls are dragged night and day in two shifts, the waste of the process is seen to be enormous.

Bill in Congress to Prevent It.

To prevent it, Congressman A. P. Gardner of Essex, who fights the battles of the Gloucester fishermen, has introduced a bill into Congress to prohibit the entrance into our ports of any fish caught by the otter trawl, and fixing as a penalty for violation the forfeiture of the offending vessel's registry.

Congress could enact this remedial measure with the reasonable assurance that it would be supported by the Canadian Parliament. The maritime provinces are even more alarmed at the devastations of the steam trawlers than Gloucester, and only a week ago the Lunenburg skippers voted to send a deputation to the Federal legislators to urge a law similar to that proposed by Mr. Gardner. Already Canada prohibits the use of the otter trawl within the three-mile limit.

Forty-eight years ago, the English began to use the otter trawl, and its cousin, the beam trawl, on the North Sea bottom. In twenty years these fishing grounds, which had been considered inexhaustible before, were so much depleted that they could no longer be fished at all. Formerly cheap and plentiful, fish are now a luxury.

Already it is estimated that a fleet of thirty steam trawlers could control the fresh-fish market, and if these drove the fishing schooners out of business, as they would infallibly do, the public would then have received a

present of a brand new trust. Fresh Fish Trust, controlling not only the market, but the supply.

The schooner fishermen are the last of that race of Yankee seamen who fought the rattling sea-fights of the Revolution, who won the war of 1812, who helped on the water to rush the Rebellion, and who, as lately as the war with Spain, were officially recognized for their physical superiority to the rank and file of enlisted men from inland. These men do keep alive the old maritime traditions of the nation. They navigate a type of schooner which is declared by foreign shipmasters to be unmatched for grace, speed, and seaworthiness. They fill our eyes and ears, through the daily press, at least once a month, with some off-shore exploit of daring or gallantry which belongs more to a legendary period than to ours. They are all that remain of the men who made possible the halcyon days of the American merchant marine; and, indeed, they are the children of those men, with salt water in their blood, driven into the fishing fleets as the last resort on this coast of men who desire to deal directly with the sea.

A nation of sailors is not trained in a year, nor in ten years. By a piece of incredible folly, which has only begun to be recognized by the nation generally, an invincible merchant navy was allowed to decay. These men, and a few coastwise skippers, are all that remain from it. But until that merchant navy can be revived, they are perpetuating the tradition—or promised to, until confronted with this latest enemy, the steam trawler. Officers of the navy have frankly confessed that they would "count on" the men of the New England fishing fleet in an emergency.

Meanwhile, what of the Bay State Fishing Company, which has launched this fleet of steamers? It sits tight, saying little: Its attorney, Billy Garcelon, who, in times of peace, piloted the Harvard Athletic Association through troublous waters, has issued a statement blandly to assure the public that "scientific men are almost unanimously opposed to further restriction." It is, perhaps, superfluous to remark that most scientists know rather less about such matters than the practical men who are catching the fish. But for the rest the silence of the company is mysterious and taken generally to mean that its arguments are to be conducted in the lobbies of the national capitol. Admiral Bowles is said to have invested heavily in the enterprise. Incidentally, the Fore River Ship Building Company, at Quincy, of which he is president, has just completed two new steamers for this industry. The Admiral, also, is saying little.

But everywhere along the coast, from Nantucket to Nova Scotia, the ports, large and small, and even the newspapers of places further inland, are one in their alarm at this recognized peril of the fisheries.

### REASONS WHY YOU MAY BE

#### A VEGETABLE AFTER ALL.

You may be a vegetable. There is no certainty that man is an animal. Scientists are now endeavoring to find out just what is animal life and what is vegetable life and to define the difference between the two.

The scientist Haeckel is the most interested in this discussion. There is some doubt about life cells being animal, as heretofore believed by man. As man is constructed of these minute life cells, he thus is not certain but that he may belong to the vegetable kingdom.

Great as is now the accumulated knowledge of the bacteria, the question of their allocation to the vegetable or to the animal kingdom grows constantly more complex. Unless the suggestion of Haeckel be adopted, it begins to look to some authorities on the whole subject as if the world of science must fundamentally modify its idea of the real difference between a man and a vegetable. It is along this line that the discussion tends to prolong itself.

If some investigators have found it difficult to decide whether bacteria are plants or animals, others find a growing difficulty in classification. Nevertheless, the form of bacteria is exceedingly simple.

#### THE CAUSE OF APOPLEXY.

The word generally means a sudden paralysis caused by the rupture of a blood vessel in the brain; it is popularly called a "stroke." It is a result of a softening of the arteries that often follows primary hardening or arteriosclerosis.

The disease is a common accompaniment of old age, so common indeed that it is regarded by many as the one characteristic senile change.

It is not confined to old age, however, for many comparatively young men who have gone too fast and too far in the pursuit of wealth or who have met with reverses and have wor-

ried unduly over them have hardened arteries and are killed or disabled by apoplexy.

In their hardened blood vessels there may be softening spots which, bulged by the hydraulic pressure of the blood, form little aneurisms. A little extra strain on the vessels, caused by some violent emotion or the lifting of a heavy weight or running to catch a train may then rupture one or more of these little aneurisms and so let the blood pour into the brain tissue.

If the blood escapes rapidly and in large amount it causes immediate loss of consciousness and paralysis; if the blood escapes gradually and in small amount it causes either severe headache and tingling and numbness in one or more of the limbs, or progressive loss of power, gradual dulling of the mental faculties and ultimate unconsciousness.

Apoplexy is not always fatal; indeed complete recovery without any paralysis sometimes occurs. The sufferer's immediate fate is commonly decided in two or three days—either he does without regaining consciousness or his mental faculties gradually return. He is then seen to be paralyzed in either one arm or in one leg, or in one side of the face, or in all three.

In less serious cases the paralysis lessens, the facial expression becomes normal and the limb regain their power. Even when the paralysis is permanent, there is almost always more or less improvement for some weeks after the stroke.

Apoplexy can be treated only by the physician, but those who fear an attack can do much to avert it. Quiet and calm should for them be the rule of life. They should never make any severe muscular effort. They should never run for cars or climb stairs quickly. They should avoid hearty meals and the drinking of much fluid, even water, at any one time.—Youth's Companion.

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A good many people do not believe in the efficiency of prayer because the Lord gives them what they deserve instead of what they ask for.